



OUR SAVIOUR'S NEWS

DECEMBER, 2011

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

At the Trunk or Treat which Our Saviour's sponsored on Halloween this year we served over 200 youth! They were excited by the fact that they were treated to more than a tootsie roll per person! A number of these people also came into the fellowship hall for a hot dog, chips, drink and a dessert. We anticipate that those numbers will grow next year as more people become aware of this ministry to the community.

We have entered into a new church year. We are in the season of Advent, which is related to the word coming. Most children and the commercial world look forward to the coming of Christmas, for that is associated with gift giving. We give gifts in remembrance of the great gift which God has given to his people, the giving of himself in the person of Jesus.

Our lessons in the worship services of Advent look for-

ward to the birth of the Christ-child as well as looking forward to the second coming of our Lord at what is commonly called judgment day. It is then that the Christ comes again.

But in many ways Christ continues to live among us today. The problem is that we don't always realize that or know where to look. We tend to forget the gospel for the last Sunday of the old church year which was about the separation of the sheep and the goats. One major theme there was in the ways in which the people of God have served Christ through the ways in which they serve the needs of people around us. It is as we feed and clothe and minister to the least of the people around us that we are in the same way ministering to Christ. We are offered many ways to serve our Lord today. It is just that we need to see those who need our help.

To help us prepare for the coming of our Lord into our lives once again we will meet on Wednesdays for soup suppers and brief worship services. We invite you to come and fellowship with one another in these traditional Advent experiences.

You will find other articles in this newsletter regarding other activities of Our Saviour's such as decorating and tree trimming and the living nativity. Take part as you are able.

May we all make time for our Lord this year among the busy-ness of this season. May we grow in our love of God and our brothers and sisters.

In Christ,
Charles Meyer, Pastor

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

7—Justin Nichols
8—Keith Shipman
10—Trey Collier
12—Glen Grote & Barb Kusch
16—Larisa Comer
18—Steve Iker & Ron Berger
19—Annie Smith
25—Paula Brumley
29—Danelle Lamb

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

5—Shannon & Steve Phelps
18—Ruby & Felix Wylie

ADVENT SOUP SUPPERS

DEC. 7

DEC. 14

DEC. 21

Our Saviour's Youth are hosting the Advent Soup Suppers. Proceeds will be used to help them attend the National Youth Gathering in July,

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

*The Call Committee has recommended a candidate. We will be conducting a telephone interview with this candidate on 11/20/11.

*The youth will be hosting the Advent soup suppers. Funds raised will help them attend the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 18-22, 2012. There will be 4 Wednesday night Advent Joyous Light services / soup suppers beginning 11/30/11 at 6:00pm.

*Commitment Sunday is scheduled for 11/20/11. Our annual potluck Harvest Dinner will follow the worship service.

*Confirmation class will not meet on the Wednesdays during Advent.

*There continues to be two vacancies on council: ministries and education committee chairs.

*The Annual Congregational meeting is scheduled for 01/29/12.

The council positions opening are Fellowship chair/Vice President, Secretary, Education chair (each is a 2 year term) and the Ministries

chair will be for only 1 year to complete the prior term.

Paige Poppe, Secretary

POINSETTIAS

Forms are available on the entry table in the Narthex for those interested in purchasing poinsettias for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. You may pick up your donated poinsettia(s) after the Christmas Day service.

Deadline for orders is Sunday, December 18th. Cost is \$10 (cash or check) payable to "Martha Landua." Thank you.

"There is such richness and goodness in the Nativity that if we should see and deeply understand, we should be dissolved in perpetual joy."
Martin Luther

**LIVING NATIVITY
DECEMBER 18
5 P.M.**

ACTORS NEEDED!

A sign up chart is posted on the Narthex Bulletin Board for actors to be in the Living Nativity on Sunday, Dec. 18 from 5 to 8 pm. Sign up today!

LOAVES AND FISHES

We met our goal in November with donations of 44 biscuit mix packages and 5 cornbread mix packages. Yeah! We will continue to supply biscuit mix in December.

Thank you to Judy Harris and Mary Slice who manned the Loaves & Fishes Store Nov. 1, 2 and 3rd. Our next time to work at the store will be Feb. 7-9, 2012. Contact Mary Slice to volunteer.



ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE

Joyous Light Advent Services will be held on Wednesday December 7, 14 and 21 beginning at 7 pm.

Soup Suppers hosted by Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Youth will precede the services, beginning at 6 p.m. Please note the change in time from previous years.

A sign-up sheet is posted on the Narthex bulletin board for volunteers to provide food and assistance with setting up and cleaning up. Freewill offerings will be

JOT DOWN THESE DATES!

Dec. 11—Decorating and Tree Trimming immediately following church.

Dec. 18—Living Nativity 5-8 pm

Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Service of Candlelight & Communion 6:30 pm

Dec. 25—Christmas Day Worship Service 10:30 am

received at each supper with proceeds going to support our youth attending the National LYO Gathering next summer in New Orleans, LA.



GIRL'S NIGHT OUT CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Women of the ELCA "Girl's Night Out" Christmas Party was held on Dec. 4 at 4 p.m. in Our Saviour's Fellowship Hall.

Diane Grote prepared a delicious Italian meal for us consisting of two types of lasagna, salad, rolls, and dessert. Seasonal decorations adorned the tables for the 27 women and girl's in attendance.

Evelyn Engel was in charge of the program and read a modern version of the birth of Jesus in Du-

rant, OK followed by Rhonda Collier reading the "real version" of the birth of Jesus found in the bible.

Everyone enjoyed the "Silly Santa" gift exchange with women going home with a smile on their face and a gift in their hand.

Thanks to Evelyn, Rhonda, Diane and all those involved with making this a very special evening.

BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY

Brown Bag Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, December 13, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your lunch and join us for discussion on "Power and Authority".

Continuing the reading of Mark's Gospel, this session introduces Jesus as one who teaches through parables, sermons, miracles, and healings. We learn more about the identity and the power of Jesus of Nazareth, even as his travels begin to take

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him farther and farther from home.

Everyone is invited to participate and guests are always welcome. Come when you can and stay for as long as you can. We'd love to have you be a part of this bible study.

CAN A HUMORIST BEAT LUKE'S STORYLINE?

God's sense of humor is clearly manifest in the first chapter of Luke.

When the angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah, an old man, and announced that his wife Elizabeth, who is also advanced in years, is to give birth to a son named John, Zechariah (like all old men with pregnant old wives) was rendered speechless.

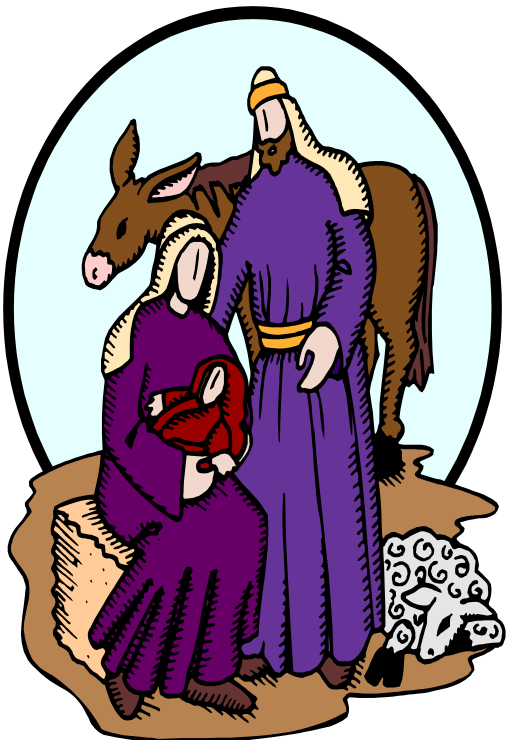
Then the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, a young virgin betrothed to Joseph, and announced that she would give birth to the Son of God, named Jesus. Mary replied to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?"

Mary rejoiced and rushed over to the home of her relative, Elizabeth, to tell her the good news. Elizabeth also rejoiced, saying, "...when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy."

So Luke paints a picture of a pregnant old woman married to an old man, a pregnant young virgin, and a baby John the Baptist in Elizabeth's womb all leaping for joy. Magnificent irony! Is anything impossible for God?

Cal Samra, editor of Joyful Noiseletter

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A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

"Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

"Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift, and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

"May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen!"

Robert Louis Stevenson